[25th November 1948

"(b) & (c) A licence is not ordinarily granted or renewed with effect from a date prior to the date of receipt of the application and will expire on the 31st day of March of the year in respect of which it is granted, or renewed. Under the proviso to rule 6 (3) of the Madras General Sales Tax Rules, 1939, the Commercial Tax Officer may, in any deserving case, direct the licensing authority to accept an application for the grant or renewal of a licence received after the prescribed date and issue the licence with retrospective effect on the applicant's paying as penalty a sum not exceeding the limits prescribed in that proviso."

SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—" Is the Hon. Minister aware that if the monthly returns did not reach the officers by the first of every month, and say, there is a delay of a day or two, sales tax is levied. In such cases would the Hon. Minister consider the desirability of levying only a nominal penalty; say, if there is a delay of a day or two or three."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" I think the discretion is already there vested in the officers."

SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—" From the rules I see no discretion is vested in them. Even if the returns do not reach the officer with a slight delay of two or three days, will the Hon. Minister see that the merchants are not subjected to payment of sales tax."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" If it is a widespread thing, if all the officers are acting like that, we shall think of issuing some general instructions."

SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—" May I request the Minister to see such instructions are issued?"

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" It is not a question."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" With regard to money matters we cannot be too lenient." (Laughter.)

Proposal to take over petrol companies by the Government.

* 136 Q.—ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state whether, in view of the scheme of nationalization of motor transport in the whole Province, the Government have under consideration any proposal to take over petrol companies as well?

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" The answer is in the negative."

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" In view of the scheme of nationalization of motor transport in the whole Province, will it not be advantageous to the Government to take over petrol companies, as it will augment the resources?"

25th November 1948]

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" We are highly thankful to the hon. Member for his suggestion. We shall consider it in due course."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—" The question refers to the scheme of nationalization of motor transport in the whole Province. May I know whether there is any such scheme?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" We did have a scheme to nationalize motor transport throughout the Province in five years. But later on we deferred it due to several difficulties. We shall resume the consideration of it very soon."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—" May I know whether it will not be better for the Government to invest their funds on new industries instead of on the taking over of exising industries?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" That also is being done."

Assistant Panchayat Officers.

* 137 *Q.*—SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the designation of Assistant Panchayat Officers has been changed into Deputy Panchayat Officers and if so, why?

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI :—" No. It is not a fact that the designation of Assistant Panchayat Officers has been changed. The cadre of Assistant Panchayat Officers was abolished and a new cadre of officers called Deputy Panchayat Officers on a higher scale of pay was created, in order to secure a better type of officers for the supervision of Panchayats."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know whether the Deputy Panchayat Officers are paid by district boards as was the case with Assistant Panchayat Officers?"

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI :—" Yes, Sir, they are paid by district boards."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know who the appointing authority is, the district board or the Government?"

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI :—" The Government have appointed a selection committee and that committee prepares a list. The district board appoints persons from the list."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I take it that an officer is not forced on a district board against its will and that the district board is competent to choose an officer from the list?"

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI :—" Yes, Sir, the district board is competent."